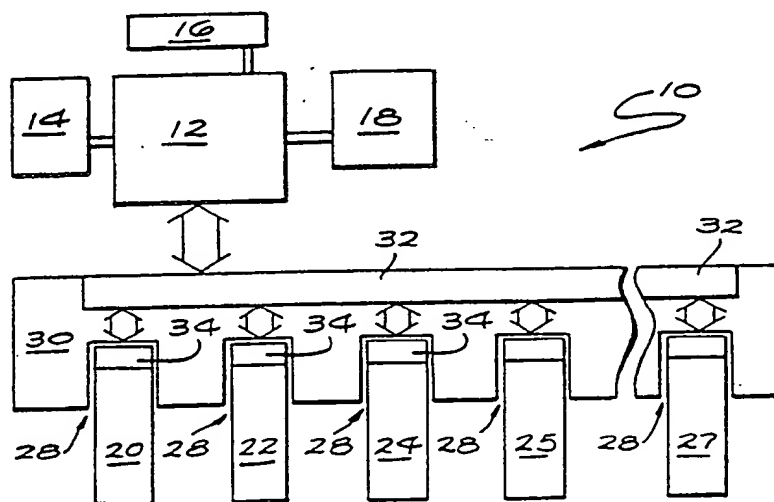




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(54) Title: DATA TRANSFER SYSTEM FOR A MULTIPROCESSOR COMPUTING SYSTEM



## (57) Abstract

A multiprocessor computing system including a plurality of output boards with one or more microcomputers (20, 22, 24) all contained upon printed circuit boards appropriately interconnected through a system bus (32). A host computer (12) utilizing a data flow logic operating system program through interaction with the user applies appropriate, sometimes customized, applications programs to define connection between the various printed circuit boards to accomplish data flow therebetween in accordance with the applications programs. The timing sequence for the various computational routines or tasks is automatically controlled by the length of the data pack as it is transferred in accordance with the applications programs so that the various tasks may be performed either serially or in parallel or a combination thereof as may be required for efficient communication between the PC boards as well as the specific portions contained thereon which perform the computational tasks.

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DATA TRANSFER SYSTEM FOR AMULTIPROCESSOR COMPUTING SYSTEMBACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to computer systems and more particularly to computer systems for processing data through the use of multiple processors.

Computer systems generally operate with one processor which handles all computational operations in "serial" fashion. However, since there are practical limits to the speeds at which processors may operate, these systems are themselves inherently limited in their capabilities. The alternative is to utilize multiple processors which process data in "parallel" fashion. In practice this has turned out to be difficult. However, two approaches have achieved some success in the past. Systems have been developed in which separate processors share the same memory. The effectiveness of a shared memory system is limited by the "bandwidth" of the memory. As the number of processors increases the processing time associated with coordinating access to the shared memory begins to consume a large portion of the available system time. Alternatively, systems have

been developed in which microprocessors are hardwired  
5 together in networks with each processor performing  
separate and distinct operations and communicating with  
certain other processors on separate bus lines. This  
system requires a complex communications structure and  
lacks flexibility to accomplish any processing job except  
10 the job for which it was specifically constructed.

The present invention helps to overcome the  
above-described limitations by providing a system which  
is not limited by memory bandwidth and is flexible in  
allowing the user to adjust the processing structure to  
15 the output desired and equipment available. Further, the  
present invention provides high processing speeds without  
the use of special processors or the complexity of a  
hardwired multiprocessor system.

20

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention constitutes a system for  
effectuating interprocessor communications in a multi-  
25 processor computer system. The present invention includes  
a plurality of data processing units, a common system bus  
interconnecting the units and a bus arbitration network  
for controlling access to the system bus. The processor  
units each comprise a conventional microprocessor, RAM  
30 memory and a local bus. However, the processor units  
also include a buffer device for enabling a data  
communications pathway between the system bus and the  
local bus and data transmission logic which functions to  
implement the actual data transfers between processor  
35 unit. The processor units further include in memory  
application program modules for data processing and an

operating system program for providing initialization  
signals to the data transmission logic for initiating and  
controlling data transfers.

In operation, the applications modules on each  
processor unit contain system call instructions which  
direct the microprocessor to execute operating system  
program routines for the input and output of data between  
applications modules. If the applications modules are on  
different processor units the operating system generates  
initialization signals to initiate and control the  
data transmission logic. In response, the data transmission  
logic interacts with the bus arbitration network to  
secure access to the system bus, establishes contact with  
the destination processor unit, activates the buffer  
device, supplies data memory address signals and provides  
control and timing signals to govern the actual transfer.  
Concurrently, the data transmission logic on the destination  
processor acknowledges contact, actuates its buffer  
device and provides certain data memory address, control  
and timing signals to govern the transfer for its  
processor unit.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is a block diagram of the overall  
computing system.

FIGURES 2a and 2b are flowchart diagrams of an  
exemplary application program for a data processing  
job.

FIGURE 3 is a flowchart diagram of an operating  
system routine for sending data.

FIGURE 4 is a flowchart diagram of an operating  
5 system routine for receiving data.

FIGURE 5 is a simplified functional block  
diagram of the data transfer structure for a processor.

FIGURE 6 is a block diagram of the data transfer  
structure for sending data.

10 FIGURE 7 is a block diagram of the data transfer  
structure for receiving data.

15 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to FIGURE 1, a block diagram of  
the hardware for the overall computing system is illustrated.  
The computing system 10 includes a host computer 12  
20 having RAM memory and a set of standard input and output  
ports including at least one parallel port. An IBM PC AT  
with 512K RAM memory would comprise a satisfactory  
computer. The computer 12 includes a floppy disc storage  
memory device 14 of conventional design for permanent  
25 storage of programs. The computer 12 also includes  
a keyboard 16 to allow input from the user and a video  
monitor 18 to allow output from the computing system 10  
to be visually displayed.

The computing system 10 further includes a set  
30 of data processing units 20, 22, 24 and one or more  
input/output units such as I/O boards 25 and 27. The  
units 20, 22 and 24 are microcomputers which each comprise  
a Motorola 68000 microprocessor or a related family  
member with 256K RAM memory mounted on a single processor  
35 board. The I/O boards 25 and 27 may typically be analog  
to digital converters, synthesizer boards or some

other board for fulfilling a customized function. The  
boards all fit into connection slots 28 in a housing  
structure 30. The housing structure 30 includes a frame  
constructed to support fifteen connection slots suitable  
to connect up to fifteen separate processor boards into  
the computer system 10. The host structure 30 also  
includes a modified VME bus 32 which interconnects the  
data processing units 20, 22, 24 and I/O boards 25 and 27  
and connects the host computer 12 to the data processing  
units 20, 22, 24. The VME bus is modified to include a  
number of lines for the control of data transfers between  
processors and I/O boards. The data processing computers  
20, 22 and 24 and the system computer 12 are interfaced  
to the VME bus by a digital logic system for coordinating  
and controlling interprocessor communications over the  
bus 32 having components 34 associated with each processor  
unit.

The data processing units 20, 22 and 24 are all  
controlled by a DFL ("Data Flow Logic") operating system  
program which is downloaded from the host computer 12.  
Initially, the host computer 12 contains a DFL compiler  
program and a DFL operating system program. The DFL  
compiler program allows the user to compose applications  
programs and define connectivity between these programs  
prior to their being loaded into the data processing  
units 20, 22 and 24. The DFL operating system program  
provides a mechanism for actuating communications between  
the units 20, 22 and 24 and for implementing data flow  
into and out from the units 20, 22 and 24 in accordance  
with the applications programs and their connectivity as  
supplied by the user.

5           Most data processing jobs involve a number of  
computational routines of varying complexity which may be  
expressed in computer code as program modules and which  
may be linked together to form a program for accomplishing  
the processing job. Referring now to FIGURE 2a, a  
10   flowchart is shown for such a program with nine serially  
connected routines, such as compute X or format Y, in the  
form of a program structured for execution by a digital  
computer having one processor. Ordinarily, the routines  
would all run on the computer in sequential fashion.

15           However, the computational routines which make up  
a processing job may be linked together differently.  
Frequently, routines are not required to be serially  
connected and may in fact be performed in parallel since  
the routines are not dependent on each other for the  
20   supply of required input. In accordance with the above,  
it is useful to view computational routines and their  
program modules as "tasks" and the links between these  
tasks as "arcs" which represent channels for data flow  
between the tasks. The tasks and arcs may form a  
25   complicated structure with serial and parallel dimensions.  
Referring now to FIGURE 2b, a flowchart of the same  
program illustrated in 2a is shown in which the program  
is expressed in terms of tasks and arcs. It may be  
observed that two sets of steps may be executed in  
30   parallel.

          The DFL operating system allows processing jobs  
to be expressed in separate program modules for accomplishing  
separate tasks and for the necessary data flows between  
these tasks to be expressed as arcs. The DFL operating  
35   system then provides a mechanism for the required flows  
of data along arcs between the program modules whether or



5 not these modules happen to be on the same data processing unit. Additionally, the DFL operating system operates in accordance with a protocol for communication of data in separate pieces or "packets" as required for efficient communication between program modules.

10           The DFL operating system comprises a set of communication rules, a communication protocol, a management program and a set of system "calls" for communication between the program modules and associated routines for execution in response to the system calls. The  
15 communication rules comprise two lookup tables containing static reference information. The first lookup table comprises information about the tasks including a listing of the tasks by name and number, their priorities, the starting address of their code in memory and their stack  
20 size. The second lookup table comprises information about the arcs including a listing of the arcs by number, their source and destination, their size and whether they are internal or external to the processor unit to which they are assigned.

25           The communications protocol is a uniform structure for the data packets. In accordance with this structure the first four bytes in each data packet indicate its source task (application modules), the next four indicate its destination task, the next two indicate  
30 the length of the packet and the bytes following thereafter contain the actual data.

35           The management program is a group of instructions which keeps track of the status of each task (application module) on each processor unit and directs the processor to execute the appropriate tasks at appropriate times. The tasks are listed as either ready to run, blocked or

running. Tasks which are blocked need further data.  
 5 Tasks which are ready are simply waiting for the required  
 computer time to be executed. Tasks which are running  
 are in the process of being executed. The management  
 program lists the tasks in the ready category timewise  
 by when they become ready and directs the processor to  
 10 execute them in that order. Whenever specific operating  
 system routines are completed the processor shifts to  
 execute the management program which directs it to  
 execute the next appropriate program.

The system calls comprise a language for  
 15 interfacing between the program modules and the operating  
 system. The system calls and their functions are shown  
 in Table I.

TABLE I

20	Send (arcp, ptr, n) "arcp" = arc pointer - (name) "ptr" = memory address 25 of packet n = size of packet	directs execution of the operating system output routine for data output to another task along the arc "arcp" for up to n elements of data starting at memory address "ptr"
30	Receive (arcp, ptr, maxn) "arcp" - arcpointer - (name) "ptr" - memory address allocated for packet 35 n = size of packet	directs the execution of the operating system input routine for data input from another task along the arc "arcp" for up to n elements of data starting at memory address "ptr"

5           The computing system 10 also includes a DFL  
 compiler program for "configuring" the DFL operating  
 system by providing a medium for the user to supply the  
 applications programs and by formulating the lookup  
 10   tables of the communications rules in response to input  
 form the user. The DFL compiler is resident within the  
 RAM memory for the host computer 12 where it can be  
 conveniently called up by the user when the system is  
 being initially set up. The user furnishes the information  
 for the lookup tables in the form of a set of standardized  
 15   instructions defining the program name and its input and  
 output characteristics (input/output data types and the  
 program's "connectivity") which are included at the start  
 of each application program module. The formats for  
 these instructions are illustrated in Table II below for  
 20   the programs "gen1" and "Copy".

TABLE II

	Gen 1 (in, out)	Task name
25	Input (char, in)	Input type
	Output (char, out)	Output type
	Copy (cin, cout)	Task name
30	Input (char, cin)	Input type
	Output (char, cin)	Output type
	Gen 1.cout ----- copy.cin	Arc
35	Copy.cout ----- gen 1.in	Arc

5       The lookup tables and required applications programs are downloaded to the processing units as a part of and along with the operation system.

10       Referring now to FIGURES 3 and 4 simplified flowcharts for the operating system routines which the processor is directed to execute in response to the Send and Receive system calls are shown. In particular, the flow charts are intended to illustrate the interaction between the operating system routines and various hardware components to be described later which are a part of the means for implementing data transfers over the system bus. FIGURE 3 shows the operating system Send routine. If the operating system determines that an interprocessor transfer is necessary in step 150 then a series of steps 152, 154, and 156 are undertaken whereby various chips are selected and initialization signals containing information required for data transfer operations are sent to those chips. When these signals are supplied, data transfer operations are initiated over the system bus. FIGURE 4 shows the operating system Receive routine. If the operating system determines in steps 160 and 162 that an interprocessor transfer is underway then a series of steps 164 and 166 are undertaken whereby various chips are selected and initialization signals containing information required for data transfer operations are sent to those chips. However, these signals only prepare a processor unit to receive a data transfer when contacted by a processor unit with data ready to be transmitted.

30       Referring now to FIGURE 6 a simplified block diagram of the hardware system architecture for data transfers is illustrated. The processor units 50, 52 and 54 and the I/O units 56 and 58 are interconnected by a system bus 60. The processor 50 is shown in somewhat

greater detail as a representative processor unit and  
5 includes bus address assignment logic 62, bus arbitration  
logic 64, data transmission logic 66, data buffer 68,  
microprocessor 70, RAM memory 72 and local bus 74. These  
components are implemented in hardware by via conventional  
10 registers, computers, buffers, logic circuits and other  
medium and small scale integrated devices. The I/O  
unit 56 is also shown in greater detail as a representative  
unit including bus address assignment logic 76 and I/O  
interface logic 78 (although we are primarily concerned  
with transfers between processing units).

15           The bus address assignment logic 62 (and  
assignment logic 76) operates to determine a unique  
address for each of the processor units (and I/O units).  
The assignment logic on each processor unit is connected  
in series with the assignment logic components for the  
20 processors on each adjacent side of the unit. When the  
power is first applied the address is determined by  
receiving and passing along a signal level on a special  
service line on the system bus in a daisy-chain manner.

          The data transfer arbitration logic 64 functions  
25 to acquire access to and mastery of the system bus 60  
on behalf of the data transmission logic 66 and the  
processor unit 50. The arbitration logic 64 is connected  
in series with the arbitration logic components for the  
processors on each adjacent side of the unit over special  
30 service lines to form a ring token network. A signal  
level is rapidly and continuously passed around the  
network from one processor unit to another. However,  
when the signal level reaches a processor unit which  
requires access to the system bus the signal level is  
35 retained and exclusive control over the system bus is  
assumed by the data transmission logic 66.

5           The data buffer 68 functions to enable a communications pathway from the system bus 60 to the local bus 74 in response to signals from the data transmission logic 66. The RAM memory 72 stores data and programs for use and execution in conventional fashion  
10 by the microprocessor 70. The data transmission logic 66 functions to implement and control data transfers between processors in cooperation with the applications and operating system programs stored in the RAM memory 72 as will be further explained hereinafter.

15           Application program modules are executed by the microprocessor 70 in the conventional manner except at point when data is required as input or data is ready for output. At such points the applications programs include system call instructions which direct the micro-  
20 processor 70 to execute operating system routines for data input and output between application modules (tasks) in accordance with the connectivity between these modules (the arcs) specified in the operating system. The steps in the operating system routines are as illustrated in  
25 FIGURES 3 and 4 and previously described. The routine executed in response to a Send call when a interprocessor transfer is indicated supplies the initialization signals for the data transmission logic. These signals represent chip selection instructions, the starting address for  
30 the actual data in the RAM memory 72, the destination address for the processor to which the data is to be sent, the number of elements of data to be sent and a request to send data. These signals are enabled onto the local bus 74 where they may be latched into the  
35 appropriate chips and registers within the data

5 transmission logic in accordance with the chip select instructions.

Referring now to FIGURES 5 and 6, the sender logic and the receiver logic are illustrated in greater detail showing the basic functional components within  
10 the data transmission logic 66 and the connections between functional components which may represent one or more actual chips and that certain chips may incorporate more than one function.

The sender logic includes a chip select logic  
15 100 which in response to instruction signals from the operating system generates signals to selectively activate other chips containing memory functions within the system. In particular the chip select logic 100 actuates the send flag register 102, the data address register and  
20 counter 104, the count register and send done logic 106, and the destination address register 108. Upon activation by the chip select logic 100 the data address register and counter 104 receives the more significant part (eight bits) of starting address or page address in the RAM  
25 memory of the sending processor of the data to be transferred. During actual transfers the counter increments this address in coordination with signals from the sequence controller 108 in order to generate a full address including the less significant part of the address. The  
30 resulting sequential addresses are provided to the address buffer 110 where they are enabled onto the local bus 74a in coordination with signals from the sequence controller 108 and are provided over the system bus 60 to an address buffer for the receiver logic on the destination  
35 processor. The receiver logic on the destination processor

5 responds on a different special line on the system bus 60 with an acknowledgment signal if it is available and prepared to receive a data packet. When the poll logic 116 receives this acknowledgment signal it in turn provides a signal to the sequence controller 108 and the  
10 local bus control logic 118. In response to these signals the local bus control logic 118 interrupts the operations of the processor so that the data transfer can take place over the local bus 74a, and the sequence controller 108 provides control and timing signals to the  
15 RAM memory for the sending processor, to the counter in the data address register and counter 104, to the address buffer 110, to the data buffer 120 and the over a special service line on the system bus 60 to the sequence controller for the receiver logic. The sequence controller 108  
20 provides the required signals to coordinate the operations of the sender logic during data transfers so that the RAM memory addresses are enabled onto the local bus 74 and the data enabled onto the system bus 60 in proper sequence.

The receiver logic includes many components  
25 having parallel or complimentary functions with similar components of the sender logic and which are frequently implemented on the same chips. In particular, the receiver logic includes chip select logic 130 (on the same chip as logic 100) which in response to instruction  
30 signals from the operating system generates signals to selectively activate other chips containing memory functions. The chip select logic 130 activates the receiver available register 132, and the data address register 134. Upon activation by the chip select logic  
35 130 the data address register 134 receives the more significant part of the starting address or page address



in RAM memory for the receiving processor of the memory  
locations allocated for the data to be received. This  
5 memory address is then supplied to the address buffer 136  
during data transfer operations where it is combined with  
a series of progressively incremented partial addresses  
(less significant parts) provided over the system bus 60  
10 from the counter (of the data address register and  
counter 104) of the sender logic for the sending processor.  
When combined together the partial address information  
from the data address register 134 and the sending  
processor provide complete data memory addresses which  
15 can be enabled onto the local bus by the address buffer  
136 for use by the receiving processor's RAM memory.  
Upon activation by the chip select logic 130 the receiver  
available register 132 receives an available flag signal  
from the operating system which sets an available  
20 flag in the register. The available flag indicates by  
its signal level to the poll logic 138 that the processor  
associated with the transmission logic is available to  
receive a data transfer. The register and destination  
comparator 140 receives destination address signals from  
25 other processors over special control lines reserved for  
this purpose on the system bus 60. These signals are  
compared to the address of the processor with which the  
receiving logic is associated as provided by the address  
assignment logic 146 and stored in a register for the  
30 device 140. When these addresses match the register and  
destination comparator 140 supplies a signal to the local  
bus control logic 142. The local bus control logic 142  
then interrupts the processor's operations so that a data  
transfer can take place and provides a signal level  
35 indicative of this interruption to the poll logic 138.

5 When the poll logic 138 is in receipt of signals from  
both the receiver available register 132 and the local  
bus control logic 142 it acknowledges the receiving  
processors availability to receive data to the sending  
processor by placing a signal level on a special service  
10 line on the system bus which connects with the poll logic  
on the sending processor. The sequence controller  
144 is then actuated by signals which are received over  
other service liens on the system bus from the sequence  
controller on the sending processor. The sequence  
15 controller 144 supplies the signals to coordinate to  
operations of the receiver logic during data transfers so  
that the RAM memory addresses are enabled onto the local  
bus 74b and the data enabled onto the system bus 60 by  
the data buffer 148 in proper sequence. When the data  
20 transfer is complete and the sending processor releases  
the system bus the receiver done logic 152 detects the  
change in signal levels in the system bus arbitration  
logic 150. The receiver done logic 152 then provides a  
signal to the receiving processor for it to resume normal  
25 operations.

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1. A system for effectuating data communications
- 2     in a multiprocessor computer system having a common bus
- 3     connecting the processors, comprising a plurality of
- 4     individual processor units including:
- 5                   microprocessor means for executing program
- 6     instructions;
- 7                   memory means for storing data and instructions
- 8     to be processed and executed by the microprocessor
- 9     means;
- 10                  means for securing exclusive access to the
- 11     common bus by interacting with a bus arbitration system;
- 12                  buffer means for enabling a communications
- 13     pathway between the processor unit and the common bus;
- 14                  means for signaling to and from selected processors
- 15     for establishing and acknowledging availability for data
- 16     communications;
- 17                  means separate from said microprocessor means
- 18     for supplying data memory address signals to the memory
- 19     means and onto the common bus;
- 20                  means for providing signals adapted for initializing
- 21     and initiating a data transfer sequence including transfer
- 22     request, data memory address and processor destination
- 23     address signals;
- 24                  sequence controller means for supplying timing
- 25     and control signals for transferring data over the common
- 26     bus from one processor unit to another.

1           2. The system of claim 1 wherein said means for  
2 providing signals for initializing and initiating a data  
3 transfer, comprises:

4           operating system program means resident within  
5 the memory means for providing the signals upon execution  
6 by the microprocessor means in response to system call  
7 instructions included in application data processing  
8 program modules.

1           3. The system of claim 1 wherein said means for  
2 signalling, comprises:

3           register means connected to the common bus for  
4 supplying and receiving destination address signals;

5           comparator means for comparing destination  
6 address signals with processor address information;

7           logic means for providing signals to establish  
8 and acknowledge data communications availability.

1           4. A multiprocessing computer system, comprising:  
2 a plurality of processor units having:  
3           (a) microprocessor means for executing  
4 program instructions,  
5           (b) memory means for storing data and  
6 program including applications program modules  
7 for processing data and an operating system  
8 program routines for helping to effectuate the  
9 communication of data between different applications  
10 program modules which may be resident on different  
11 processor units;  
12           (c) a local bus means connecting said  
13 microprocessor means and said memory means;  
14 a system bus for interconnecting said plurality  
15 of processor units;  
16 means for arbitrating access to said system bus  
17 between said processor units;  
18 a plurality of buffer means, one of which is  
19 associated with each processor unit, for connecting the  
20 local bus associated with each such processor unit to the  
21 system bus and enabling a communications pathway from its  
22 processor unit onto said system bus;  
23 a plurality of data transmission logic means,  
24 one of which is associated with each processor unit and  
25 which are connected to the system bus and the local bus  
26 and the buffer means for the processor unit with which  
27 each logic means is associated, each such logic means  
28 operative for implementing data communications between  
29 processor units over said system bus in response to  
30 signals generated by the execution of said operating  
31 system routines which are undertaken as a result of the  
32 execution of system call instructions included in said  
33 applications program modules.

1           5. The system of claim 4 wherein the data  
2 stored in said memory means and transferred over said  
3 system bus is stored and transferred in packets.

1           6. The system of claim 5 wherein said data  
2 transmission logic means comprises:  
3           means for signaling to and from selected  
4 processor units on special address and control lines for  
5 establishing and acknowledging availability for data  
6 communications;  
7           means separate from said microprocessor means  
8 for supplying data memory address signals to the memory  
9 means of the processor unit with which the logic means  
10 is associated and onto the system bus;  
11           sequence controller means for supplying timing  
12 and control signals for transferring data over the system  
13 bus from one processor unit to another.

1           7. The system of claim 6, wherein said means  
2 for supplying data memory address signals comprises a  
3 register which receives the more significant part for the  
4 memory address signals from the processor unit with which  
5 it is associated and a counter for generating the less  
6 significant part for each memory address in accordance  
7 with signals from the sequence controller means.

1           8. A method for effectuating data transfer  
2 between processor units in a multiprocessor system having  
3 a common bus connecting the processor units, comprising  
4 the steps of:  
5           programming a data processing job into separate  
6 tasks which are adapted for executing discrete parts of  
7 the processing job on different processor units and arc  
8 information which defines the connectivity for data flow  
9 purposes between the tasks;  
10           implementing data transfers along the arcs  
11 between tasks on different processor units by transferring  
12 data in packets over the common bus in accordance with  
13 the following steps for each transfer of data from a  
14 source processor unit to a destination processor unit:  
15           (a) referencing the arc information at the  
16 source processor unit for a specific data  
17 transfer,  
18           (b) setting a register on the source  
19 processor unit as a flag to indicate that a  
20 data packet is ready for transfer over the  
21 common bus,  
22           (c) securing access to the common bus for  
23 the source processor unit by interacting with  
24 a means for arbitrating access to the common  
25 bus in response to the register flag,  
26           (d) supplying a processor destination  
27 address from the source processor unit in  
28 accordance with the arc information onto the  
29 common bus for establishing contact between the  
30 source processor unit and the destination  
31 processor unit,

32 (e) signalling between the source processor  
33 unit and the destination processor unit to  
34 acknowledge availability for data transfers;

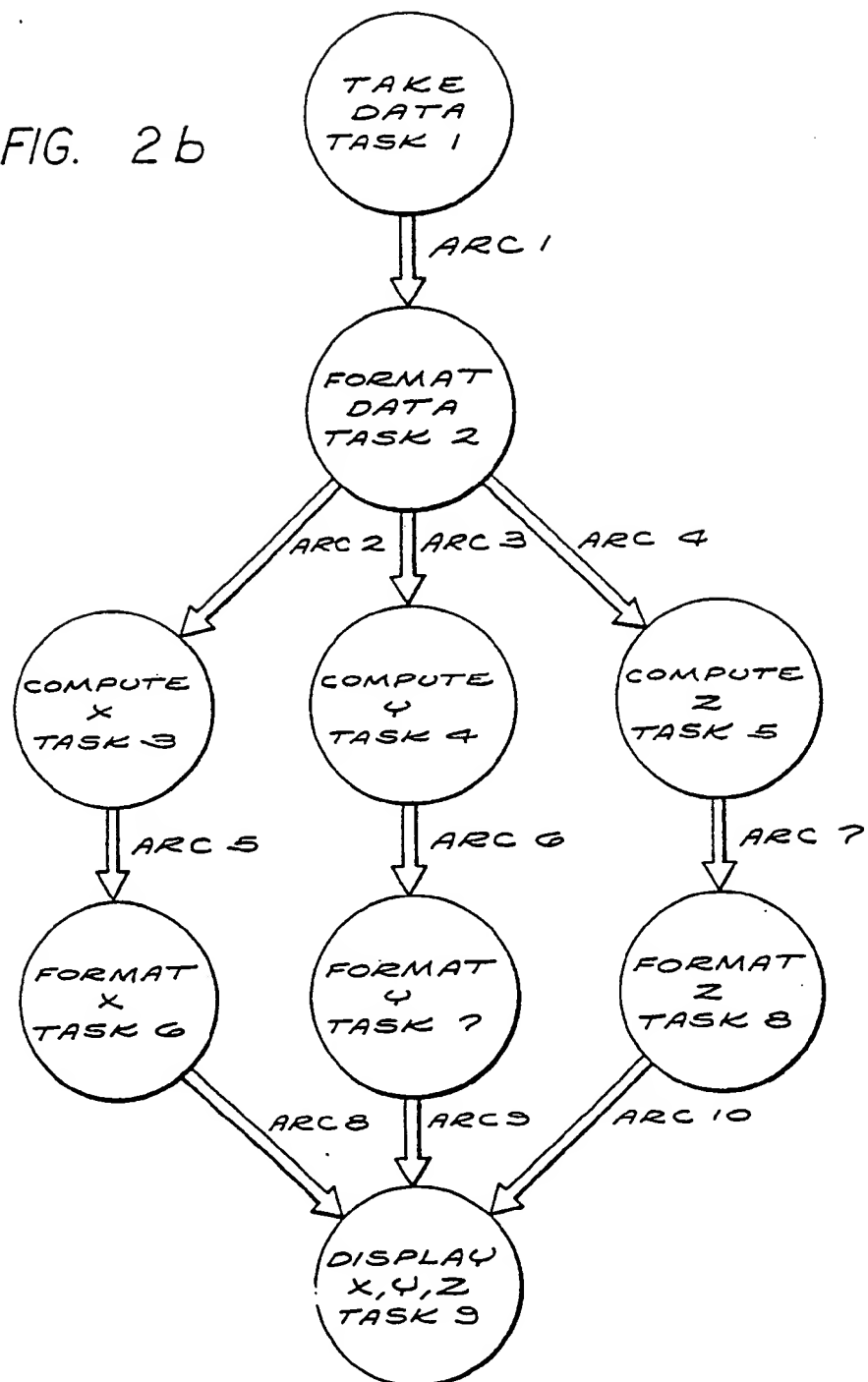
35 (f) enabling a communications pathway from  
36 the source processor unit over the common bus  
37 to the destination processor unit;

38 (g) supplying data memory address, control  
39 and timing signals for reading data from the  
40 memory means associated with the source processor  
41 unit onto the common bus and writing data on  
42 the common bus into the memory associated with  
43 the destination processor unit.

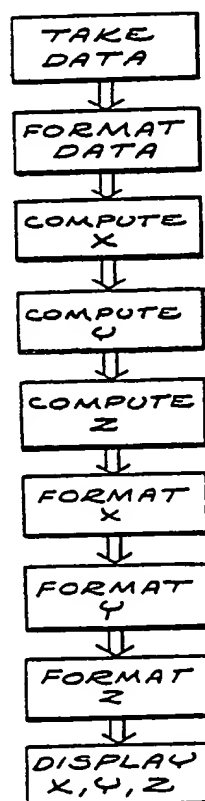
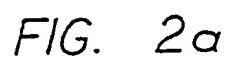
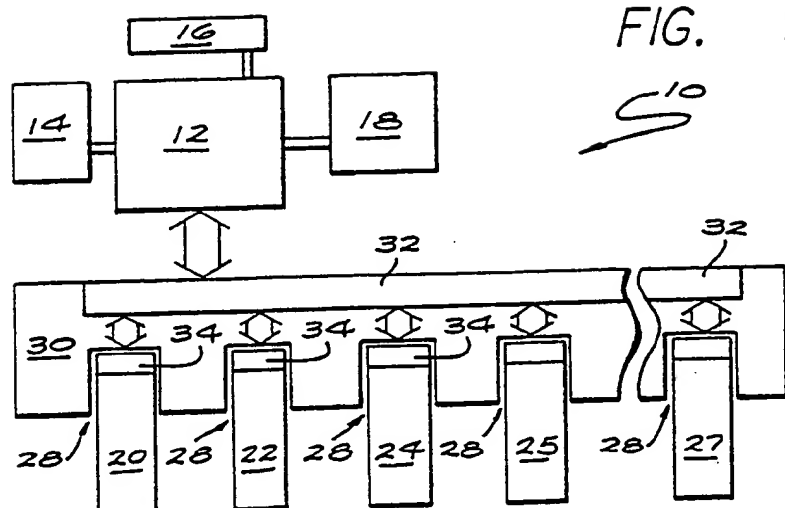


2/7

FIG. 2b



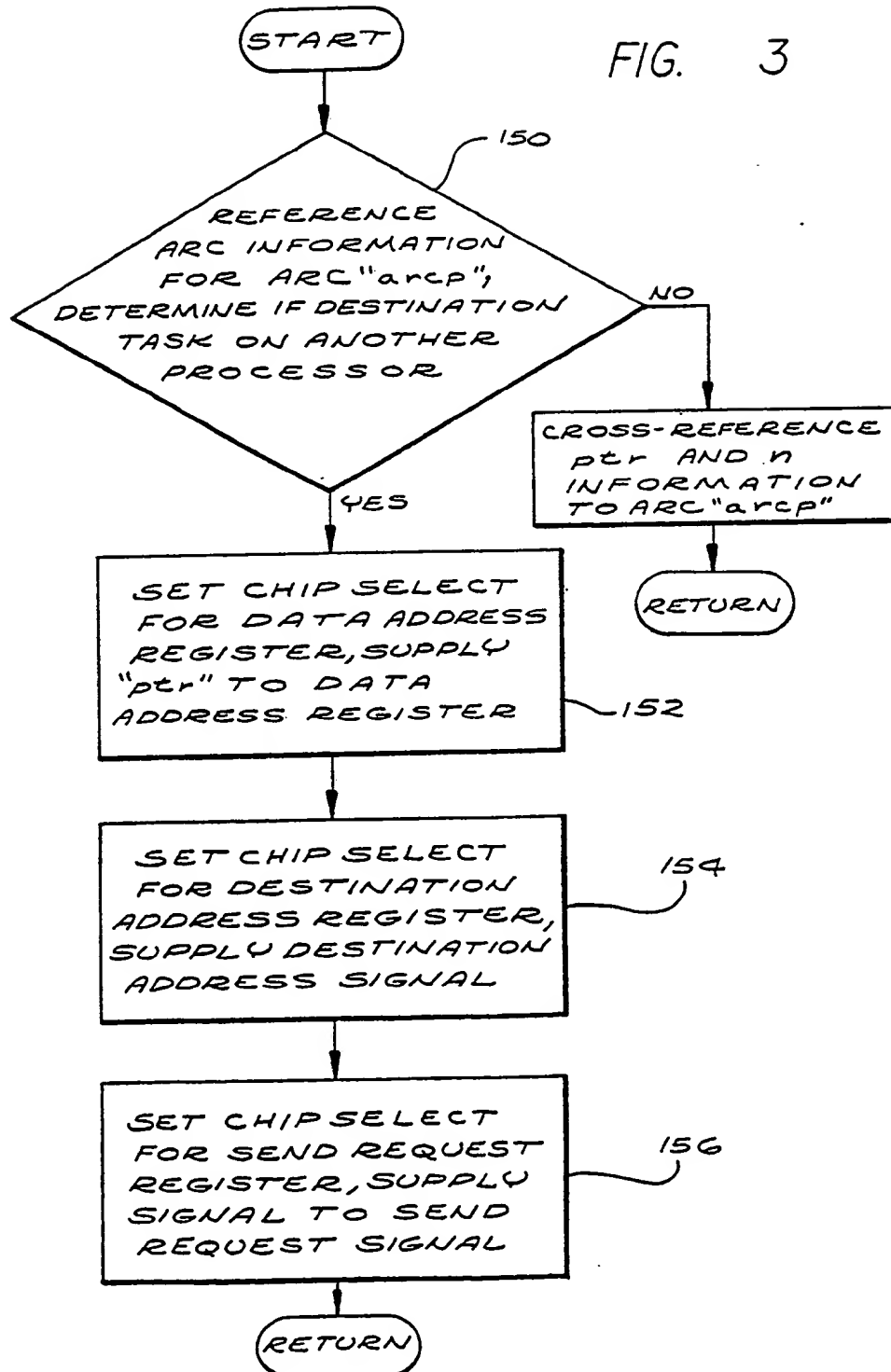
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3/7

SEND(arcP, ptr, n)

FIG. 3



4/7

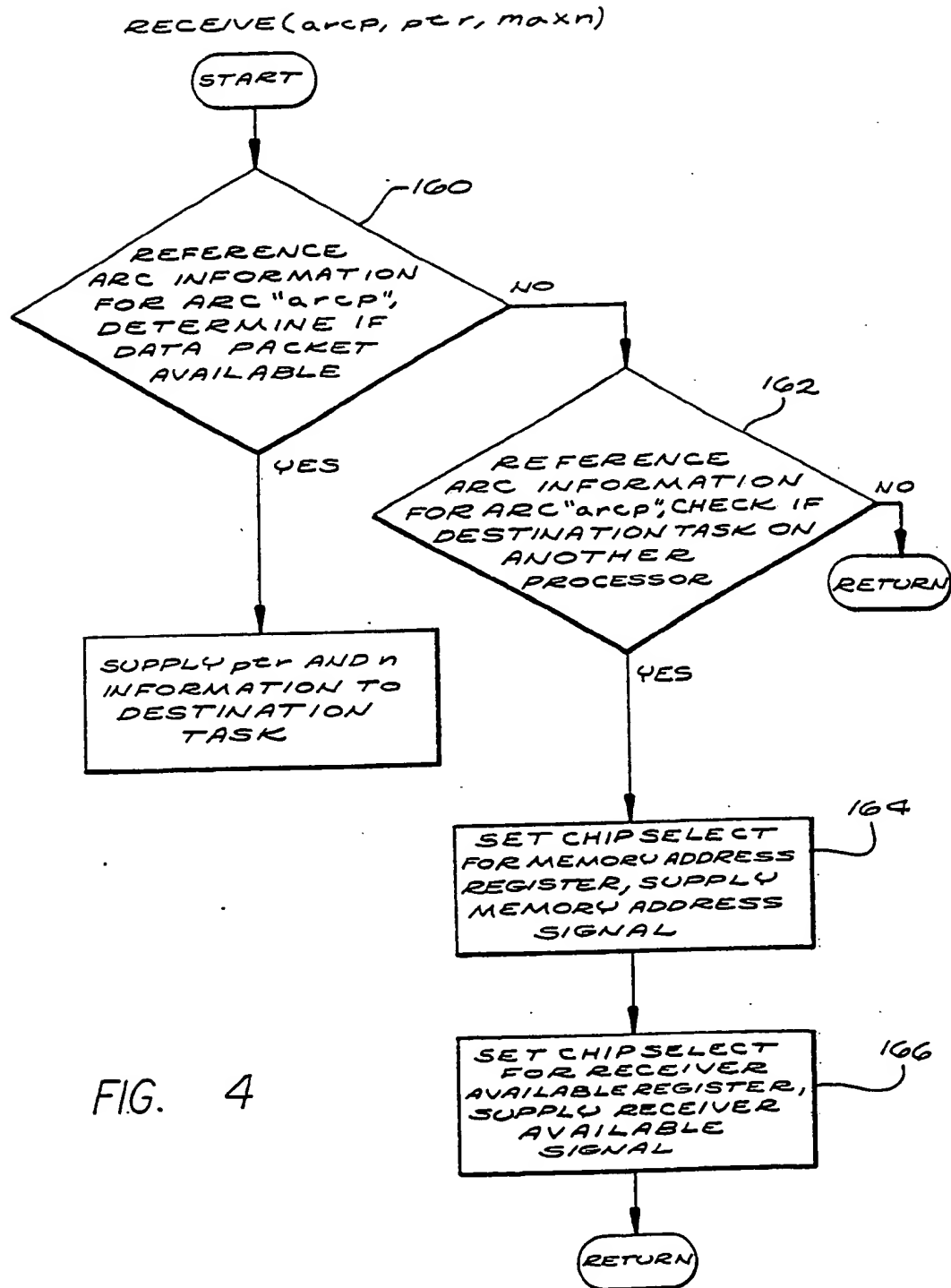


FIG. 4

5/7

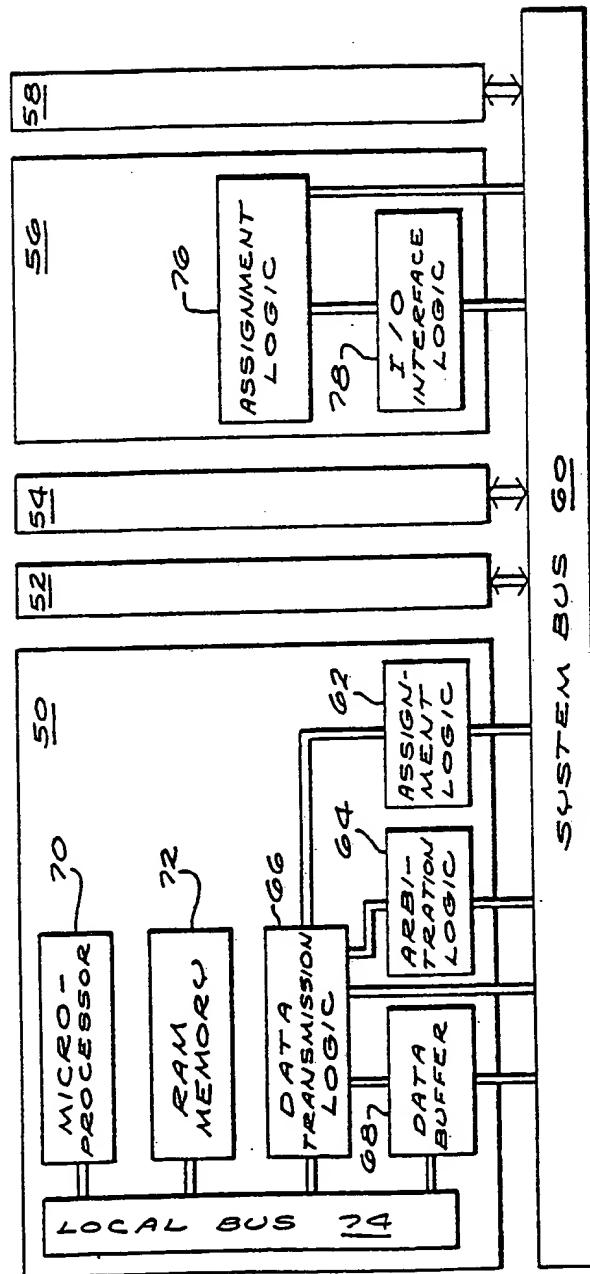
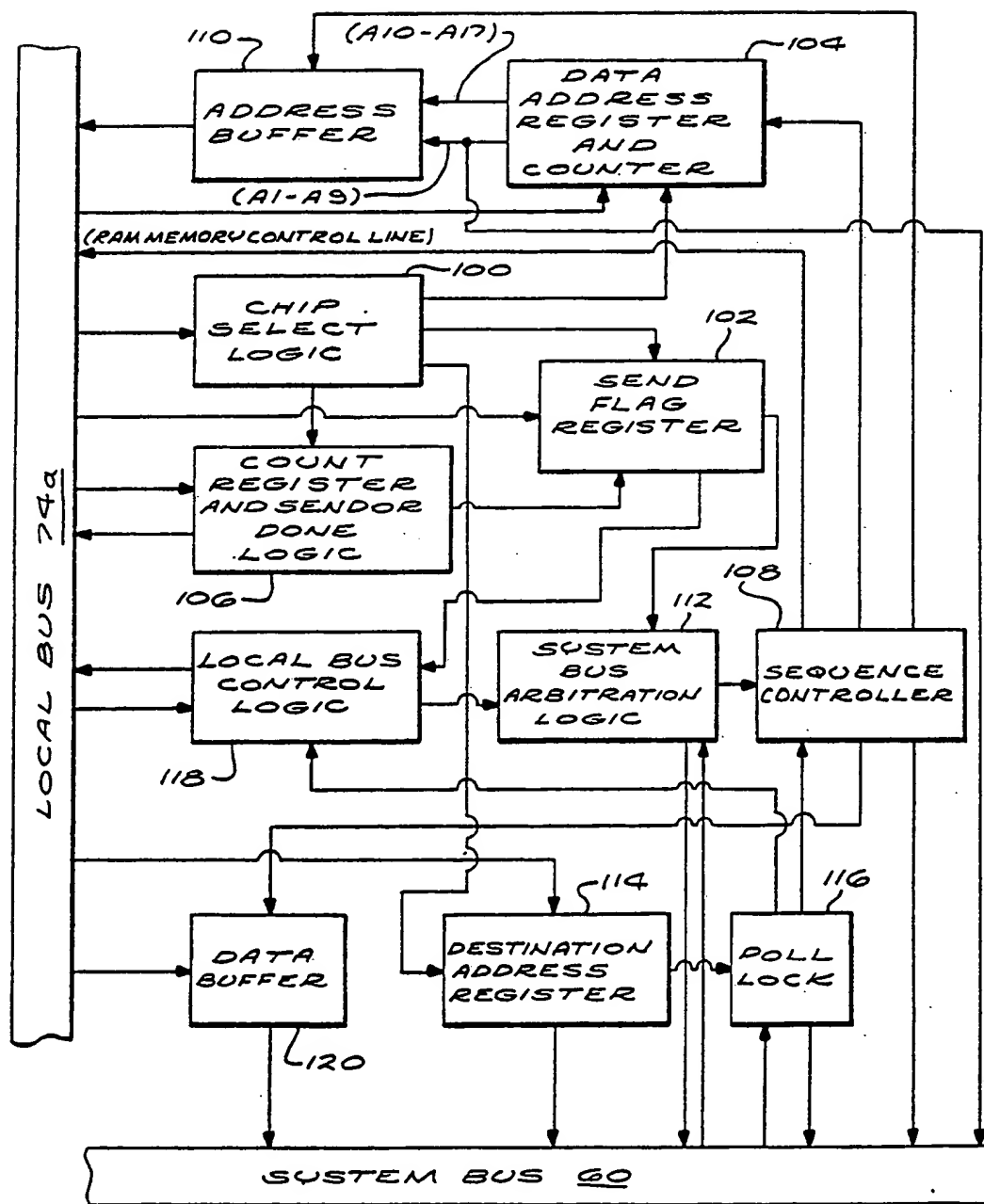


FIG. 5

6/7



SENDER LOGIC

FIG. 6

5/7

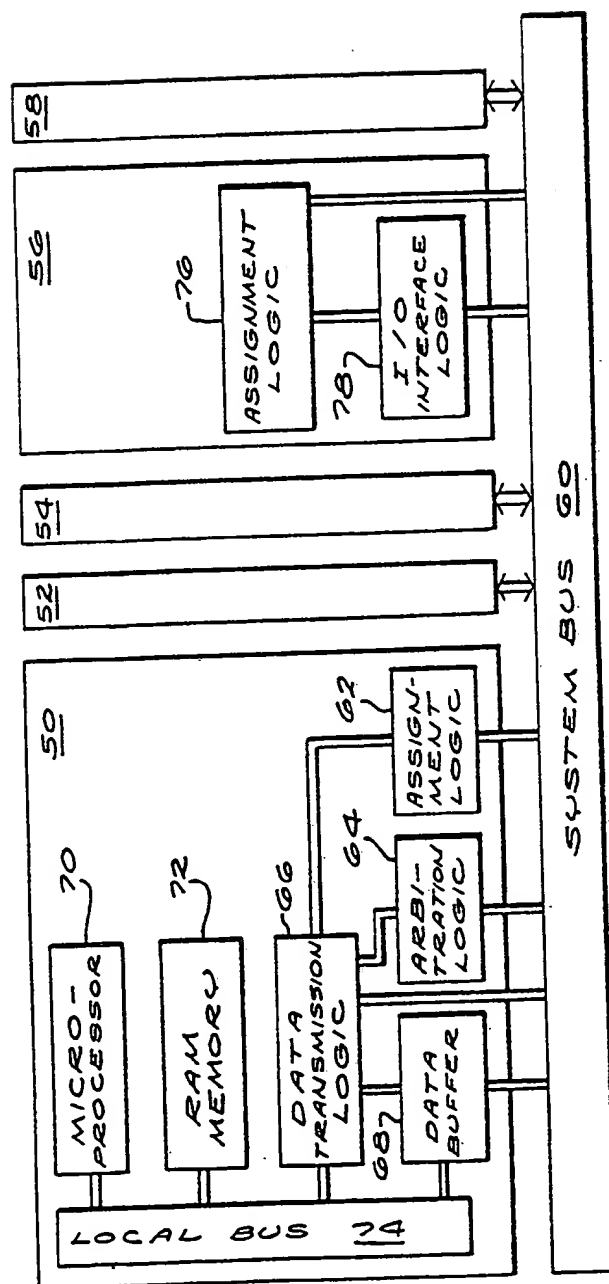


FIG. 5

7/7

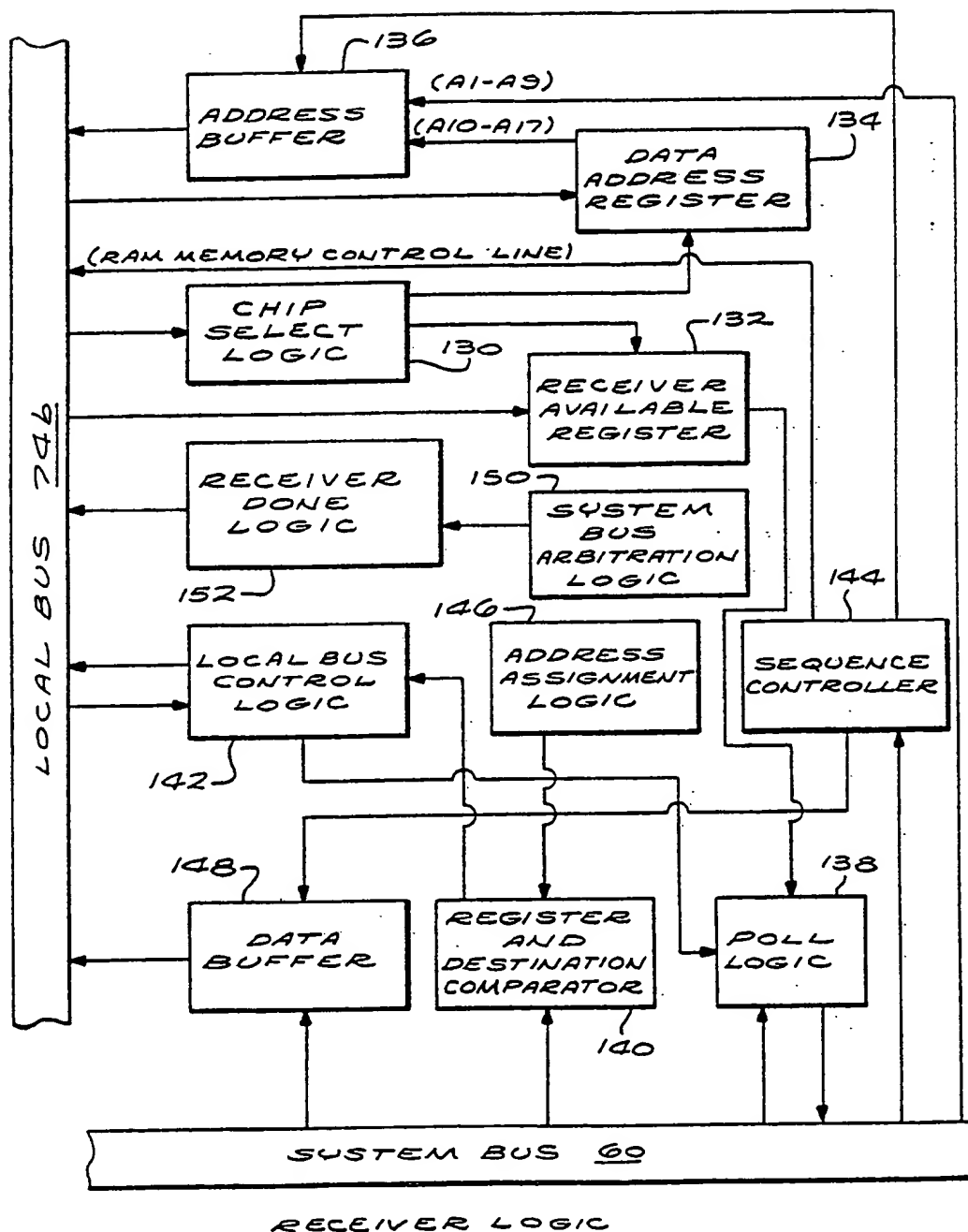


FIG. 7



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US88/01236

<b>I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) <sup>6</sup>		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
IPC(4): G06F 13/36		
U.S. Cl. 364/200		
<b>II. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum Documentation Searched <sup>7</sup>		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
U.S.	364/200, 900	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched <sup>8</sup>		
<b>III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <sup>9</sup></b>		
Category <sup>*</sup>	Citation of Document, <sup>11</sup> with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages <sup>12</sup>	Relevant to Claim No. <sup>13</sup>
X	US, A, 4,320,467 (GLASS) 16 March 1982, see entire document.	1-8
X	US, A, 4,601,586 (BAHR ET AL.) 22 July 1986, see entire document.	1-8
E, X	US, A, 4,744,023 (WELSCH) 10 May 1988, see entire document.	1-8
Y	US, A, 4,363,093 (DAVIS ET AL.) 07 December 1982, see columns 43-48.	1-8
Y	US, A, 4,363,094 (KAUL ET AL.) 07 December 1982, see columns 3-5.	1-8
Y	US, A, 4,404,628 (ANGELO) 13 September 1983, see entire document.	1-8
Y	US, A, 4,470,114 (GERHOLD) 04 September 1984, see entire document.	1-8
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><sup>*</sup> Special categories of cited documents: <sup>10</sup></p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>		
<b>IV. CERTIFICATION</b>		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search		Date of Mailing of this International Search Report
28 JUNE 1988		10 AUG 1988
International Searching Authority		Signature of Authorized Officer

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

A	US, A, 3,735,365 (NAKAMURA ET AL.) 22 May 1973, see columns 2-4.	1-8
A	US, A, 4,375,639 (JOHNSON, JR.) 01 March 1983, see entire document.	1-8
A	US, A, 4,387,425 (EL-GOHARY) 07 June 1983, see entire document.	1-8
A	US, A, 4,543,626 (BEAN ET AL.) 24 September 1985, see entire document.	8

V. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE<sup>1</sup>

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim numbers \_\_\_\_\_ because they relate to subject matter <sup>12</sup> not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claim numbers \_\_\_\_\_ because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out <sup>12</sup>, specifically:

3. ☐ Claim numbers \_\_\_\_\_, because they are dependent claims not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING<sup>2</sup>

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.

2. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:

3. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:

4. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

## Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.

☐ The applicant requested the payment of additional search fees

1/7

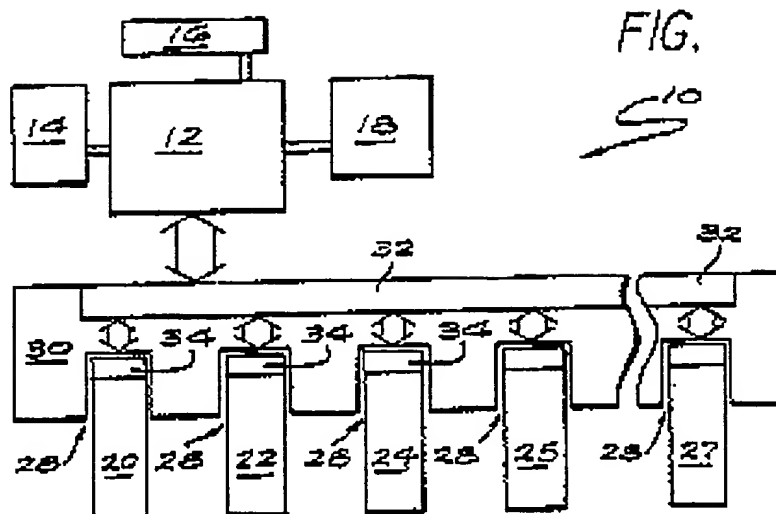
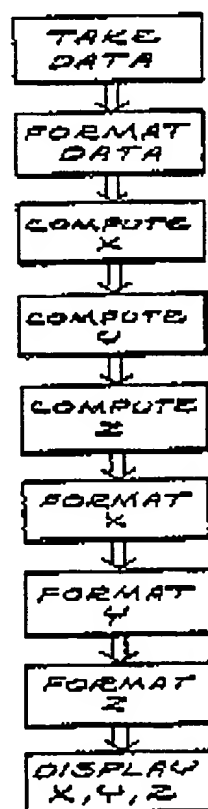
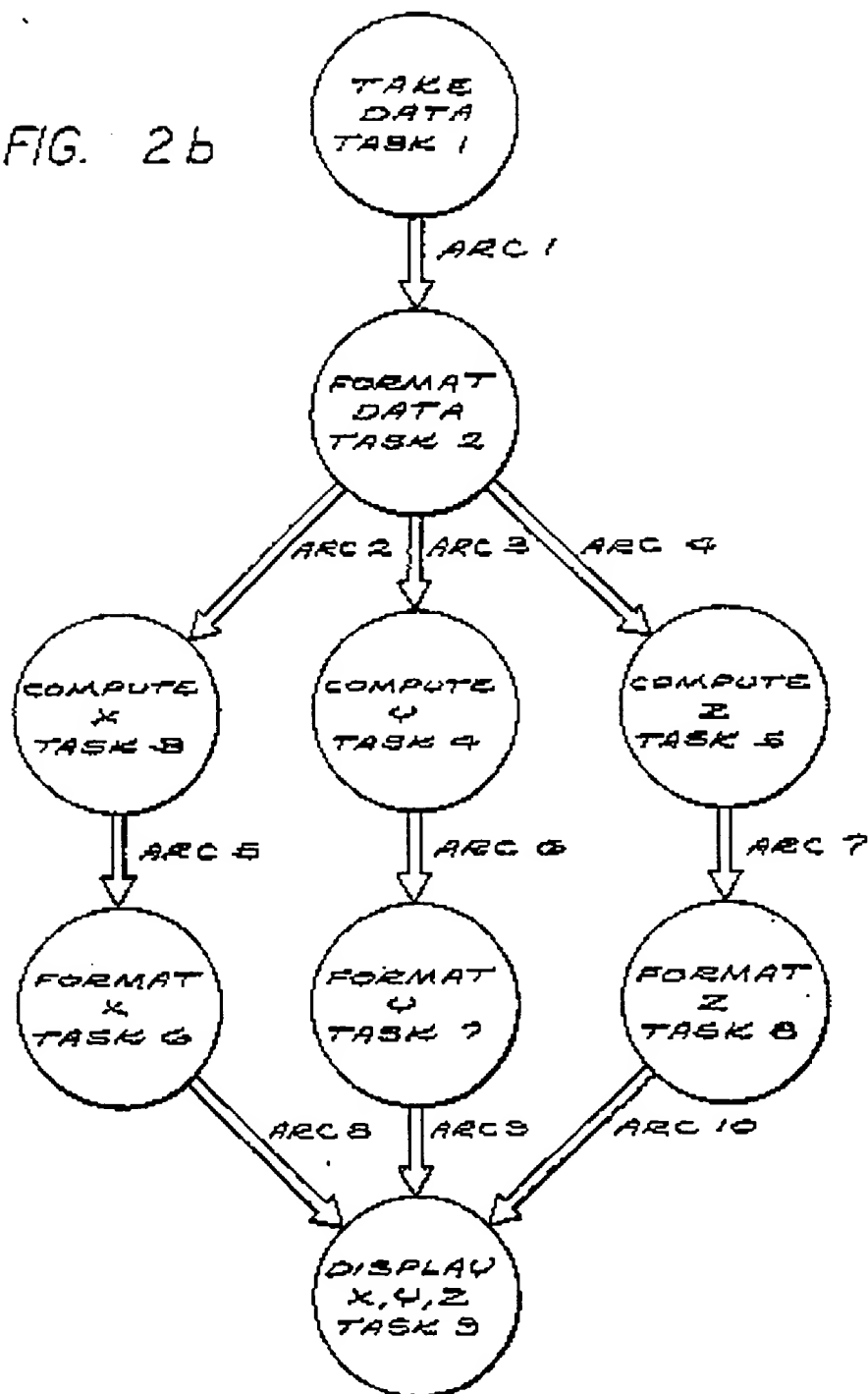


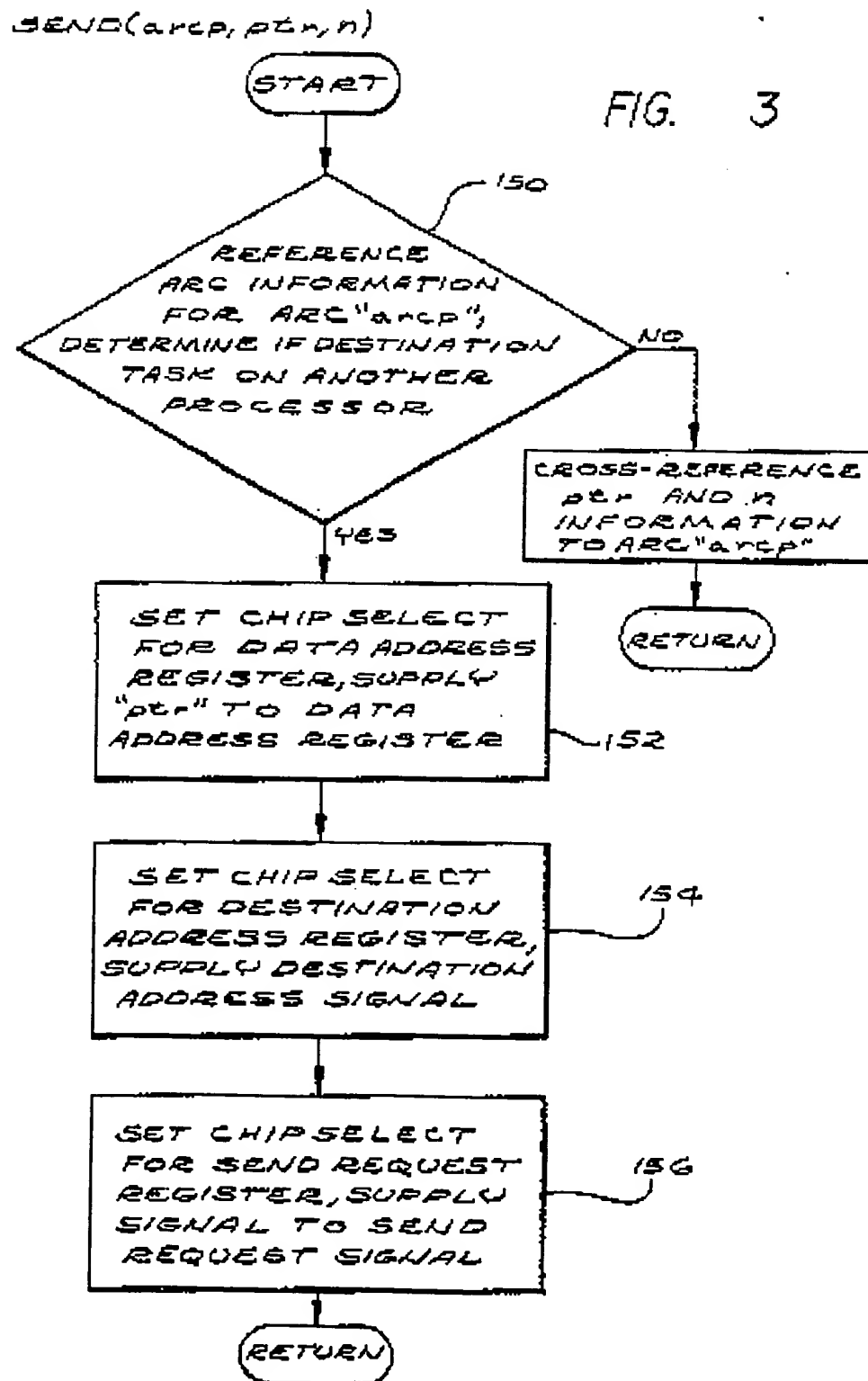
FIG. 2a

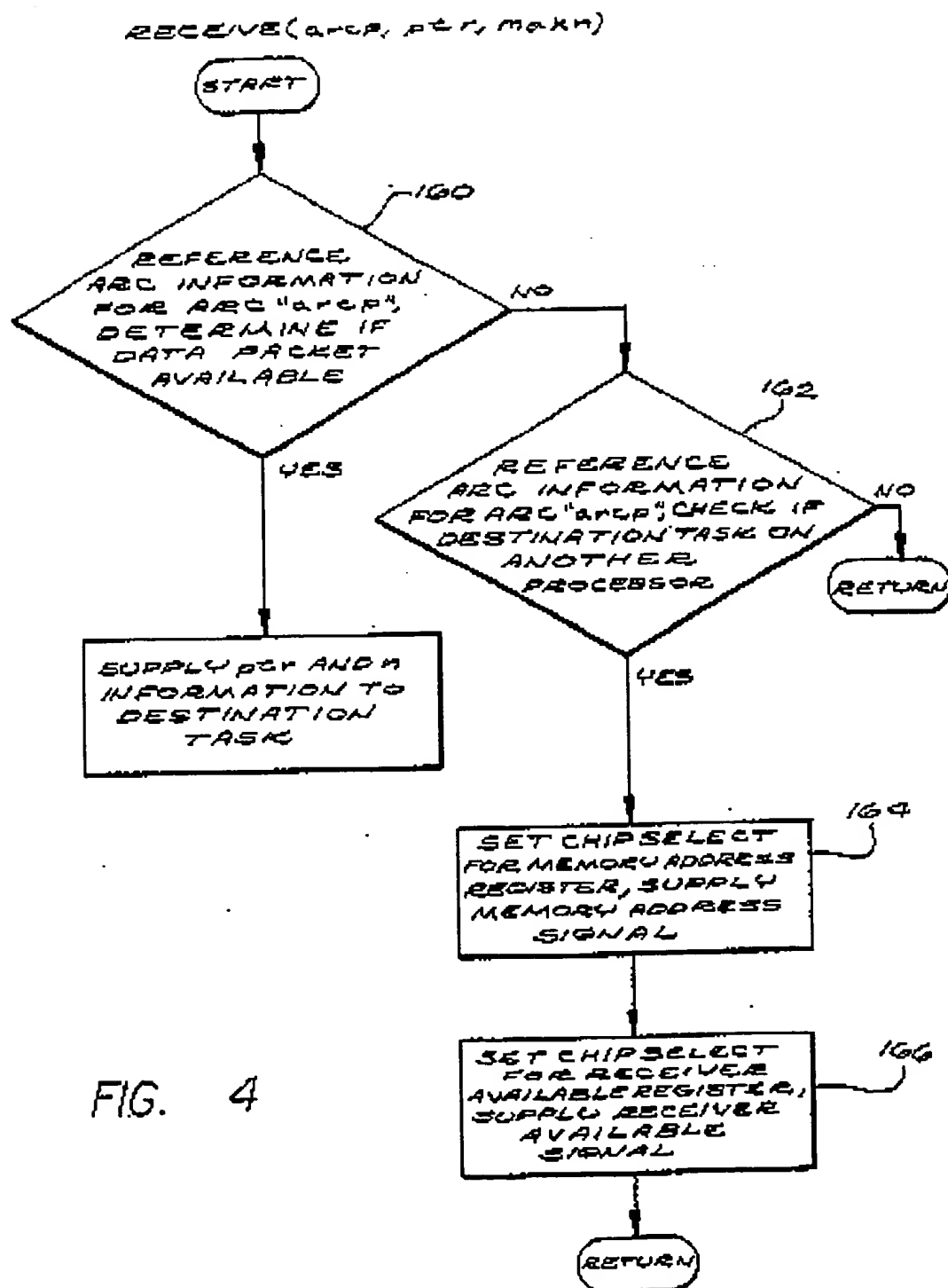


2/7

FIG. 2b







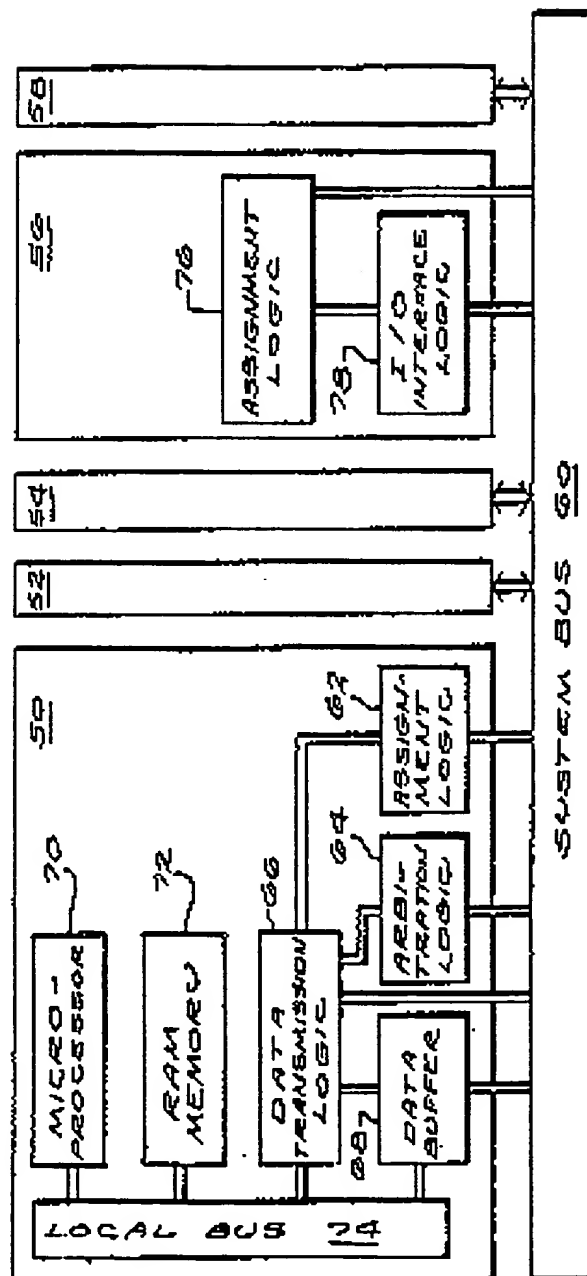
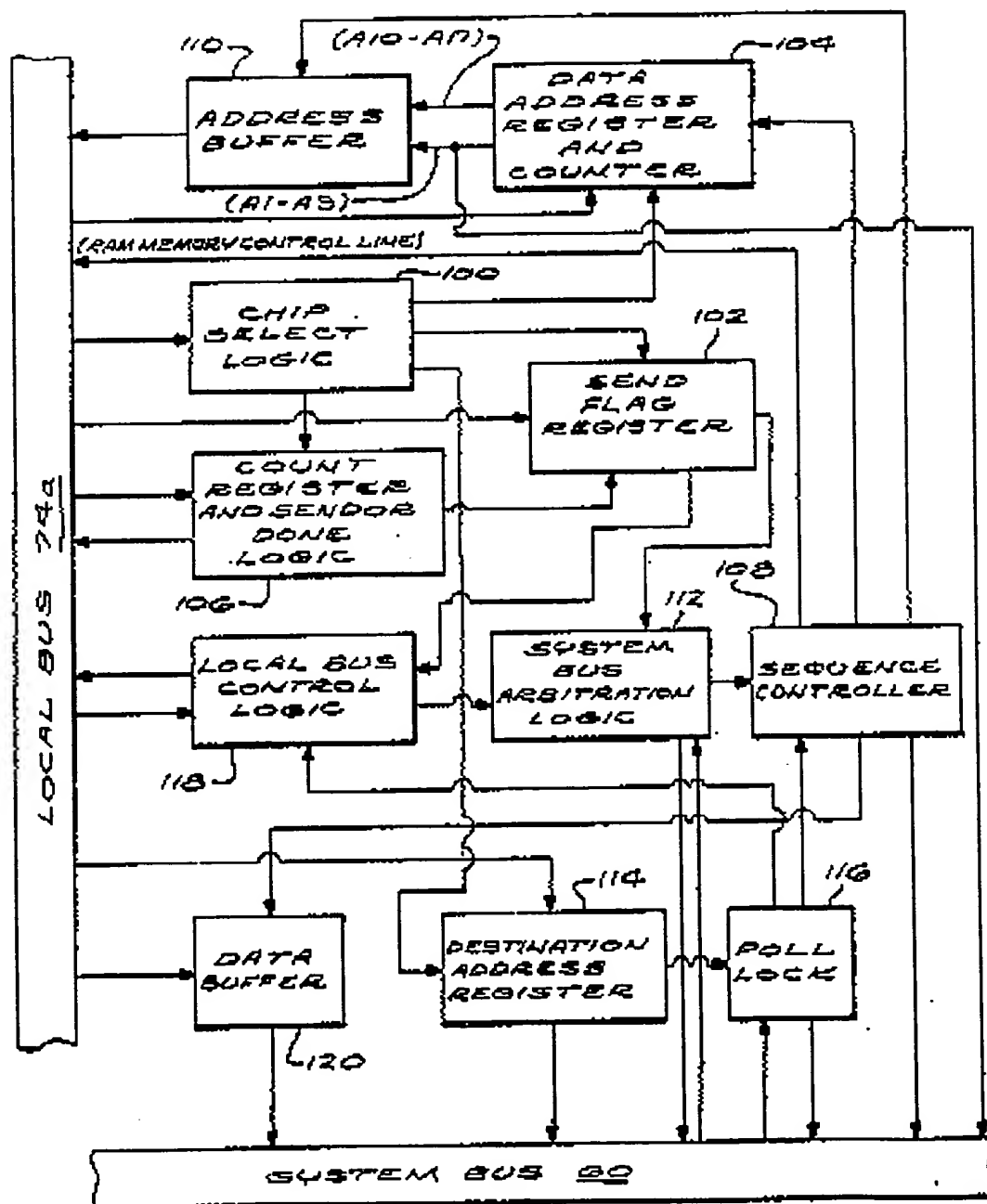


FIG. 5



SENDER LOGIC

FIG. 6



7/7

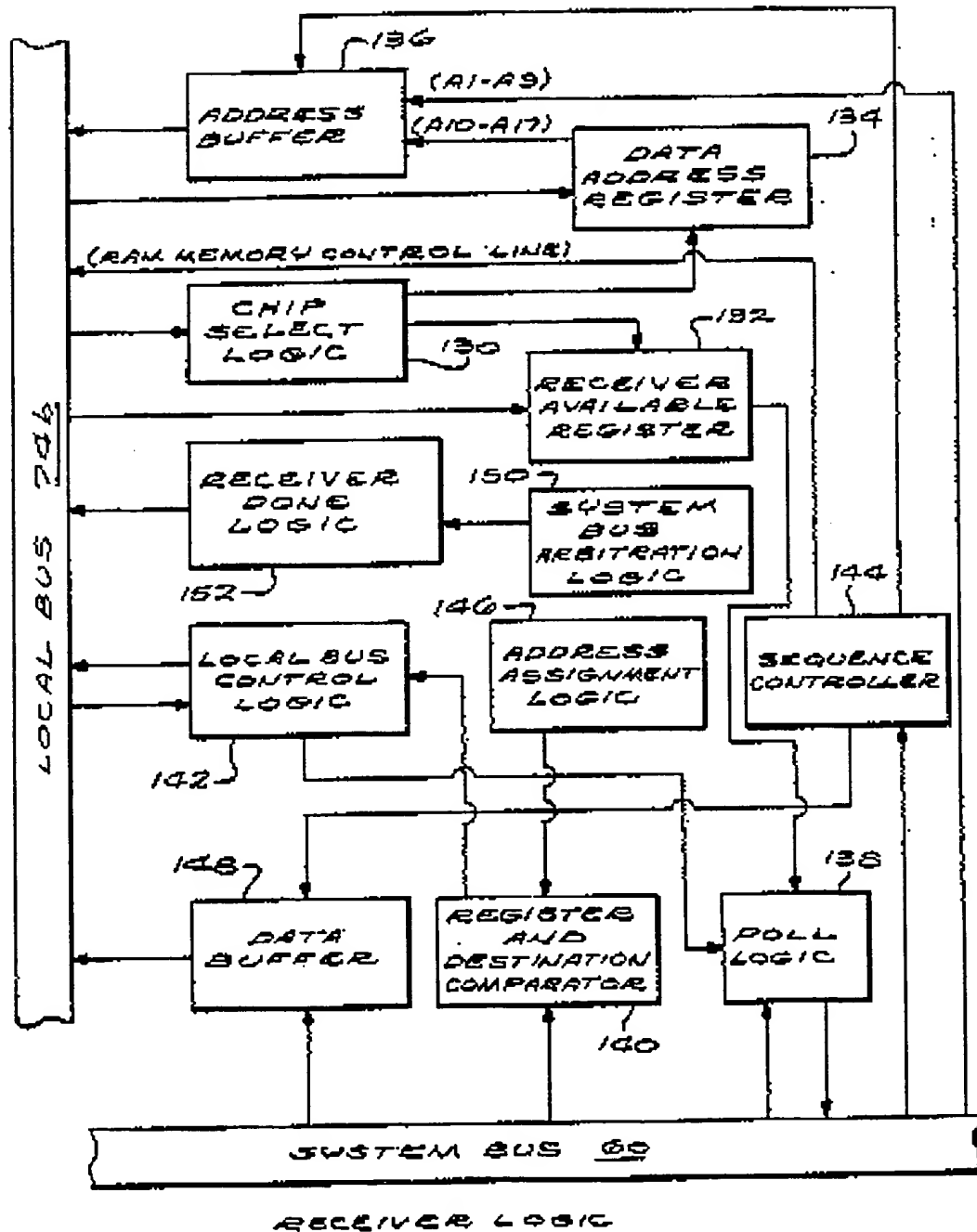


FIG. 7